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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO 188 MONTHS

BALTIMORE, Maryland – Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that yesterday Chief United States District Judge Benson E. Legg sentenced Duane Curtis Chase, age 44, of Baltimore, Maryland to 188 months in prison, with a 12 month consecutive sentence for violation of supervised release, followed by 5 years of supervised release as a result of Chase's guilty plea to one count of bank robbery.

The statement of facts presented to the court at his guilty plea on August 31, 2004 provided that from July 23, 2003, to October 17, 2003, Chase, along with several co-defendants conspired to commit armed bank robbery and bank robbery. Chase participated, and attempted to participate, in a number of the bank robberies. At the time, he knew that he and the co-defendants planned to rob banks. He went into the banks and committed the robberies, with knowledge that items appearing to be guns were used to rob the bank. Further, he recruited others to rob banks. Chase received proceeds from each robbery in which he participated. A dangerous weapon was brandished at three of these robberies. At all of the banks, a threat of death was made.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Amount Taken</u>
07/23/03	First Mariner Bank 60 Painters Mill Bank Baltimore, Maryland	\$11,341.00

08/12/03	Wachovia Bank Lutherville, Maryland	\$5,911.00
08/20/03	M&T Bank 9840 Reistertown Road Owings Mills, Maryland	\$12,737.00
09/05/03	First Mariner Bank 7400L Ritchie Highway Glen Burnie, Maryland	\$ 3,076.00
09/10/03	Mercantile Bank 6227 North Charles Street Towson, Maryland	\$35,379.00
10/17/03	First Mariner Bank 60 Painters Mill Road Baltimore, Maryland	(Attempt)

At the time of the robberies, all of the banks were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Baltimore County Police Department, and the Baltimore Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.